

Gale A. Norton, Former Secretary of the Interior; President of Norton Regulatory Strategies



Gale Norton has three decades of experience handling energy, natural resources, and environmental issues. As Secretary of the Interior, 2001-2006, she played a key role in shaping national energy policies. A member of President George W. Bush's Cabinet, Norton was responsible for managing over 20% of the land area of the United States, a Fortune-500-sized budget, and a workforce of 70,000 employees.

In the face of crises including the September 11th attacks and the War on Terror, increasing domestic energy production became a major focus for Norton's term. She oversaw lands and offshore areas that produced a third of America's domestic oil, natural gas, and coal. She was actively involved in consideration of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, offshore and onshore oil and gas production, coal mine leasing and reclamation, hydroelectric generation, as well as biomass, wind and geothermal development.

Norton led efforts that resolved 70-year-old interstate disputes on the Colorado River and instituted a west-wide water conservation program. She championed the President's Healthy Forest Initiative and Cooperative Conservation.

Norton returned to Colorado as General Counsel for Royal Dutch Shell Unconventional Oil, 2007-2010. She was a member of Shell's global legal leadership team, and handled legal, regulatory and governmental issues for Shell's oil shale and in-situ oil sands projects, primarily in Colorado and Alberta.

As an attorney, Norton has handled multi-billion-dollar and high-profile litigation involving products liability, antitrust, taxation, environmental and constitutional issues, including arguing cases before the US Supreme Court and negotiating one of the largest lawsuit settlements in history. Norton served two terms as the elected Attorney General of Colorado, 1991-1999.

Norton's background also includes serving as senior counsel at Brownstein, Hyatt & Farber, P.C.; Associate Solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior; Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; National Fellow of Stanford University's Hoover Institution; and Senior Attorney for Mountain States Legal Foundation. Norton has a B.A., J.D. and honorary Ph.D. from the University of Denver, and an honorary Dr. Eng. from the Colorado School of Mines. She has chaired the National Park Foundation and the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

Norton is currently a Senior Advisor for Clean Range Ventures, an energy technology venture capital firm. She serves on boards for the Federalist Society, the Reagan Alumni Association, and the University of Colorado Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute. She and her husband, John Hughes, are avid international travelers, golfers, skiers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Mike King, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources



Mike King has led the Department of Natural Resources since 2010, navigating the agency through significant reorganization, regulatory accomplishments and landscape-scale protection under the direction of Governor John Hickenlooper.

As Executive Director of DNR, King guided the creation of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, a merger of two previously stand-alone divisions that serves as an important example of Governor Hickenlooper's efforts to shape a more efficient state government. King also shepherded the move of the Colorado Geological Survey from DNR to its new home at the Colorado School of Mines, where it can more cost-effectively serve Coloradans as a critical source of research and information.

King has also executed three major regulatory initiatives designed to strike the evolving balance between development of our oil and gas resources and protection of the environment and human communities. He guided a lengthy collaborative process with the U.S. Forest Service and the public to develop a Colorado Roadless Rule that dramatically increases safeguards and preservation of our spectacular forests. He has also overseen a period of record revenues for the Colorado State Land Board, which raises money for K-12 education in the state. In addition King has played an important role in resolving water allocation challenges between Colorado's Western Slope and Front Range. One of his priority missions is bringing more Colorado youth into the outdoors and into natural resource-focused careers.

King is a native West Slope Coloradan. He became the Assistant Director for Lands, Minerals and Energy Policy in January of 2006 and was appointed as Deputy Director of the Department of Natural Resources in September of 2006. Mike was appointed executive director of DNR in May 2010. He was reappointed to the position by Governor John Hickenlooper in January of 2011.

Prior to his employment in the Executive Director's Office, Mike worked in the Policy and Regulation Section at the Colorado Division of Wildlife in various capacities for six years and was an Assistant Attorney General from 1993-1999.

Mike received his Bachelors degree in journalism from CU-Boulder, law degree from the University of Denver and a Masters in Public Administration from CU-Denver's Graduate School of Public Affairs.

Mike currently lives in Parker with his wife Amy and their three children.

Sallie Clark, Commissioner, El Paso County, Colorado



Sallie Clark was elected to serve as an El Paso County Commissioner in November of 2004 and re-elected in 2008 to represent District 3. She served as Board Chair of the Commission in 2006 and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Sallie was the fourth woman to have been elected to serve on the El Paso County Board of Commissioners and is the third woman to have served as Chair of the Board. Her district encompasses western El Paso County, including central and the west area of the City of Colorado Springs, the City of Manitou Springs, the Town of Green Mountain Falls, and the unincorporated areas in the western portion of the county, including the Turkey Canyon area on the south to the Fremont County line, the area directly south of the Air Force Academy, and the Ute Pass area on the far west to the El Paso County line.

Sallie became a military wife in 1980 when she married Welling Clark. In 1985, the couple settled in Colorado Springs. She has family roots in Colorado; her father was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado and she spent every summer on her grandmother's farm there. She loves Colorado, and continues to appreciate our open spaces, mountain scenery and especially the Pikes Peak area. She enjoys hobbies such as cooking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, tennis, golf and reading.

Sallie has owned her own business since 1986. She operates Holden House Bed & Breakfast Inn, located on the historic Westside of Colorado Springs. She is also an instructor and small-business consultant for aspiring bed and breakfast innkeepers. Sallie previously worked in the medical profession and the cancer field, prior to opening her own business over 24 years ago.

Her local interest in public service began with her neighborhood advocacy to save Fire Station 3. In addition to her previous service on the Colorado Springs City Council, she has served on various local and state organizations and committees. These include the State of Colorado's Travel and Tourism Authority, Organization of Westside Neighbors, School District 11 Business Sounding Board, the Westside Schools Task Force, the National Fire Protection Association 1710 Committee, Council of Neighbors and Organizations, Springs Community Improvements Program Public Safety Committee, the Dr. Lester L. Williams Fire Museum Board, the Colorado Restaurant Association-Pikes Peak Chapter, the National League of Cities Public Safety Committee, and with her husband, founded the Colorado Bed and Breakfast Association in 1987 and currently serves on the association's board.

Sallie received the "2002 Woman of Distinction Award" from Soroptimist International, was named one of the Denver Post's People to Watch 2001, has been awarded the "Best Civic Leader," "Best Role Model" and "Best County Commissioner" from the Colorado Springs Independent Newspaper, and is a recipient of the "Tourism Industry Award" from the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau. She received the Colorado Springs Business Journal's "40 Achievers under 40 Award" in 1999 for her success as a small-business owner. In 2006, she received the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber "Accolades Award" and the "Woman of Distinction Award" from the American Heart Association (AHA) for her two consecutive years as co-chair of the AHA's "Go Red for Women" campaign. She also served as the United Way Campaign Council Chair in 2006 and 2007, was presented with the "Elected Official of the Year" from the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, received the "Heroes of Mental Health Award" from Pikes Peak Behavioral Health (Aspen Pointe) and was selected as one of the Colorado Springs Business Journal's "Women of Influence" in 2010.

Steve Johnson, Commissioner, Larimer County, Colorado



Steve Johnson is a Larimer County, Colorado county commissioner and a former Republican member of the Colorado Senate. From 2003 to 2009, Johnson represented the 15th Senate District, encompassing rural Larimer County and the cities of Loveland and Estes Park. Previously he was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives from 1997 through 2002.

Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a D.V.M. from Colorado State University, Johnson worked as a veterinarian in Loveland, Colorado, and currently works as a county supervisor for Larimer County. He has taught science at Heritage Christian High School. Johnson is married and has no children.

Johnson was a member of the Larimer County Planning Commission from 1987 to 1996, and was first elected to the State House in 1996. In 2002, he was elected to the State Senate over Democrat Kathy Gilliland, and was re-elected in 2006, defeating Democrat Jennifer Miller. In the 2007-2008 session of the Colorado General Assembly, Johnson sat on the powerful Joint Budget Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

A moderate Republican, Johnson was the State Senate sponsor for Referendum C, a statewide measure to remove TABOR restrictions on the state budget; his sponsorship put him at odd with other fiscally conservative Republicans. In addition to his work on the six-member Joint Budget Committee preparing the state budget, Johnson has expressed priorities of expanding funding to higher education and re-opening the state drivers' license office in Loveland. The office reopened on May 16, 2008.

In June 2007, Johnson — otherwise healthy and athletic, having recently taken second place in a legislative fitness challenge — suffered a heart attack. That same summer, Johnson taught an organic chemistry class at Colorado State University. Since then, Johnson has placed a renewed emphasis on affordable health care, calling it a "moral issue" for the Republican Party.

In January 2008, Johnson, facing the end of his senate tenure in 2010, announced his candidacy for a seat on the Larimer County Board of Commissioners

Dan Gibbs, Commissioner, Summit County, Colorado



Dan Gibbs was elected as Summit County Commissioner during the 2010 November elections. Dan feels blessed to represent “the heart of Colorado” and is working to make a difference in the community he lives in and loves.

Prior to being elected County Commissioner, Gibbs served in the Colorado State Senate for District 16, which includes Summit, Grand, Gilpin, Clear Creek, and western parts of Jefferson and Boulder counties. Prior to his service in the State Senate, Dan served in the Colorado House of Representatives for House District 56, which includes Summit, Eagle, and Lake counties.

In the State Senate, Dan served as the chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and was a member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Since being elected to the Colorado State Legislature in 2006, Dan has worked tirelessly to bring a collaborative approach to some of Colorado’s most pressing issues, including the economy, education, transportation, and forest health.

Dan is a certified Wildland Firefighter and is affiliated with the ROSS system in which he is on-call to fight wildfires throughout the U.S.

Dan is a graduate of Western State College of Colorado with a BA in Sociology.

Dan serves on numerous civic boards and committees including Colorado Youth Corps, I-70 Coalition, SOS Outreach, CASA of the Continental Divide, Habitat for Humanity of Colorado, Summit Nordic Ski Club, Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, Bull Moose Sportsmen’s Alliance, Rotary International, and Elks Club.

Dan enjoys all that living in the High Country has to offer such as telemark and cross-country skiing, hiking, white-water kayaking, mountain biking, hunting, and fishing. He is a resident of Breckenridge, Colorado where he lives with his wife, Johanna, and his canine companion Tuff.

Gary Moyer, President, Colorado Association of Conservation Districts



Gary Moyer currently serves as the President of the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, a position he has held since January 2012. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts provides leadership for the conservation of natural resources to ensure health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the state through a responsible conservation ethic, and is the voice of private land owners on natural resource issues. The non-profit association represents 76 conservation districts statewide.

Mr. Moyer received his bachelor's degree in Forest Products from the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities. After graduating, he and his father worked to grow the family business, Moyer Lumber, expanding multiple times within just a few short years.

On the topic of forest management, Mr. Moyer believes we could have helped slow the spread of forest pests like the mountain pine bark beetle, which has ravaged his home state of Colorado over the past decade. When the Forest Service is unable to act, either due to litigation or resource-management-plan constraints, our national forestland suffers. Eventually, those problems trickle into private forestland. "In western Colorado, such a large percentage of the land is owned and managed by the federal government," says Moyer. "I like the idea of these agencies getting locally-driven input," says Moyer, "and the districts are ideally suited to do that."

Denny Behrens, Field Director, Colorado Mule Deer Association



Colorado Mule Deer Association Board of Directors contracted with Denny Behrens of Two Feathers LLC as Field Representative on a full time basis.

Denny has been instrumental in initiating and coordinating our Habitat Restoration Initiatives and Our Youth Hunts. Our programs continue to expand and the need to have a full time person working on the ground is essential. Over the past years Denny has helped the CMDA gain National recognition. The DOW, state legislators and other sportsmen throughout the state respect him for his passion for wildlife issues and youth recruitment.

Michael McHugh, Environmental Permitting Coordinator, City of Aurora Water Department

Mr. McHugh is the Environmental Permitting Coordinator for Aurora Water. He currently manages permitting requirements for Aurora Water Resources Projects and watershed protection issues. He has more than 25 years of experience in environmental restoration and water resources. He is a professional geologist and holds a B.S. in geology from Fort Lewis College, an M.P.A in management from the University of Colorado Graduate School of Public Affairs, and an M.S. in Mineral Resources Ecology from the Colorado School of Mines.

For the past six years he has been a member of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership, now known as the Front Range Round Table, on wildfire and watershed protection. He also serves on the Leadership Team for the Healthy Headwaters Project of Carpe Diem West, a group that is promoting strategies to develop an alliance of water utilities, elected officials, land managers, scientists, conservationists, recreationists, timber companies and business leaders to promote the health and resilience of the headwaters that provide water security to communities across the American West.

He has served on the board of Directors for the Colorado Section of the American Water Resources Association as President and completed three terms on the City of Arvada's Planning Commission. He is a member of the Geologic Society of America, American Water Resources Association, American Water Works Association, Colorado Groundwater Association and Rotary International where he was the Centennial President of the Arvada Rotary Club.